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upper extremities which soon decreased. After two years there were contractures in both legs. There were peculiar rises in the temperature, lasting a short time, immobile pupils and general atrophy. After two years more contractures in both arms; decubitus, death. The autopsy showed the lesion for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The degeneration in the pyramidal tract could be followed from the lumbar region to the level of the corpora quadrigemina at which the process was the more recent. The motor cells of the cord were degenerated, also the nuclei of the hypoglossus, anterior vagus and glossopharyngeus, facialis, and motor trigeminus. Moreover there was hyperæmia of the gray matter along the floor of the medulla and of the pons, fresh extravasations specially in the region of the posterior vagus nucleus (sensory) an old extravasation cephalad of the facialis knee, with secondary ascending atrophy of the right posterior longitudinal bundle. This case agrees with those previously reported in showing motor ganglia and tracts to be alone involved by the disease. The degeneration of the pyramids disappeared caudad of the internal capsule. (The brain was not examined microscopically, but showed no lesion at the autopsy). It is suggested that the case may illustrate Westphal's generalization that fiber systems which acquire their medullary sheaths the latest are those which most easily undergo involution, or that some toxic substance exercises a selective action on motor cells and fibers. The variations in temperature may have been connected with the extravasations into the sensory nucleus of the vagus.

*Recherches sur la structure des cordons postérieurs de la moelle épinière de l'homme.* N. POPOFF de Varsovie. Archives de Neurologie, Mars, 1889. Rev. in Neurolog. Centralbl., No. 16, 1889, by Nonne.

Testing Becterev's statements on the components of the column of Goll, Popoff finds by way of confirmation that the group of fibers nearest the middle line becomes medullated earlier than the more lateral portion. The difference is clearer in the cervical than in the dorsal region. According to Popoff the mesial portion originates from the column of Clarke, the lateral from the posterior commissure.

*A gerinczvelői idegek hátulsó gyökereiről.* M. LENHOSSÉK. Ung. Akadémie, Sitzung v. 20 Mai, Auszug aus Orvosi Hetilap 1889, p. 21. Rev. in Neurolog. Centralbl., No. 16, 1889 by Jendrassik.

The course of the posterior spinal roots was studied by means of comparative anatomy and embryology. The entering fibers divide into three groups. A mesial (*innere*), intermediate (*mediale*), and lateral portion. The two former acquire their medullary sheaths earlier and are composed of larger fibers than the last. The mesial group passes through the substantia gelatinosa in a number of thick bundles, and bends to form the longitudinal bundles of the posterior cornua (Kölliker.) From here, after a longer or shorter course, they pass ventrad for the most part in the direction of the lateral cells of the anterior cornua, smaller portions to the lateral column and posterior commissure. This last group is small in man but more developed in the cord of the guinea-pig.

Of the intermediate group, a portion enters the column of Bur-

dach and, after a longer or shorter course there, passes ventrad to the gray substance. Another portion passes directly through the substantia gelatinosa, ending in a network in the lateral cells of the anterior cornua; another portion to the column of Clarke and the posterior commissure.

The lateral group first passes longitudinally as the marginal zone of Lissauer, then ventrad through the zona spongiosa. The columns of Burdach consist of fibers from the intermediate group. The longer fibers pass from the lumbar roots to the cells of Clarke in the dorsal cord and a portion of the fibers pass from the cervical roots caudad to the same cell group, the major portion however passes to the nucleus of this column in the medulla. The Posterior Commissure contains: 1. fibers from the mesial and intermediate groups, medullated in embryos only 36 cm. long; 2. fibers arising from cells in the gelatinous substance of Rolando becoming medullated after birth. One difference between these results and those of other authors is that Lenhossék traces none of the fibers from the posterior roots into the anterior commissure.

*Zur Frage über Veränderungen der Nervencentren bei peripherischen Reizen.* S. SSADOWSKI. Dissertation, St. Petersburg, 1889. Russisch. Rev. in Neurolog. Centralbl, No. 15, 1889, by P. Rosenbach.

The question to be solved was whether pathological changes could be induced in a ganglion by the stimulation of its peripheral nerve. The experiments were made on dogs and rabbits. Ssadowski stimulated on one side of the body, the nervus ischiadicus, vagus, auricularis magnus, or intercostalis. The stimulus was either by faradization or ligature of the nerves. In the first case the stimulus was applied for fifteen min. daily through several weeks. In the last the ligature was applied for a period of from 7—70 days. The animals were then killed and a microscopic examination made of the nerve and the associated ganglion. The nerve trunk in the neighborhood of the ligature showed evidence of degeneration; that which had been electrically stimulated did not. On the other hand, the ganglion in both cases showed atrophic degenerative changes (consisting in vacuolization, coagulation necrosis, and shrinkage) of the nerve cells, and at times infiltration with lymphoid elements and distention of the capillaries. These results are explained by the author as degeneration following disturbance of nutrition which was in time caused by excessive stimulation.

*Further observations on the histology and function of the mammalian sympathetic ganglia.* W. HALE WHITE, M. D. Journ. of Physiology, Vol. X, No. 5, July, 1889.

The study of the superior cervical ganglia in the human adult and comparison of it with other forms led White to conclude some time since that in man at maturity these ganglia were functionless. (See abstract AM. JOUR. PSY. Vol. 1. p. 329.) In the present paper he concludes from a study of the same ganglia taken according to the age of the subject that there is a progressive degeneration of the cells from birth on. He has further examined the semilunar ganglia in a similar way and finds the same general relations all around that were determined for the cervical. In examining the thoracic ganglia they are found much more constant in size and in general more